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Fortunatus

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Fortunatus

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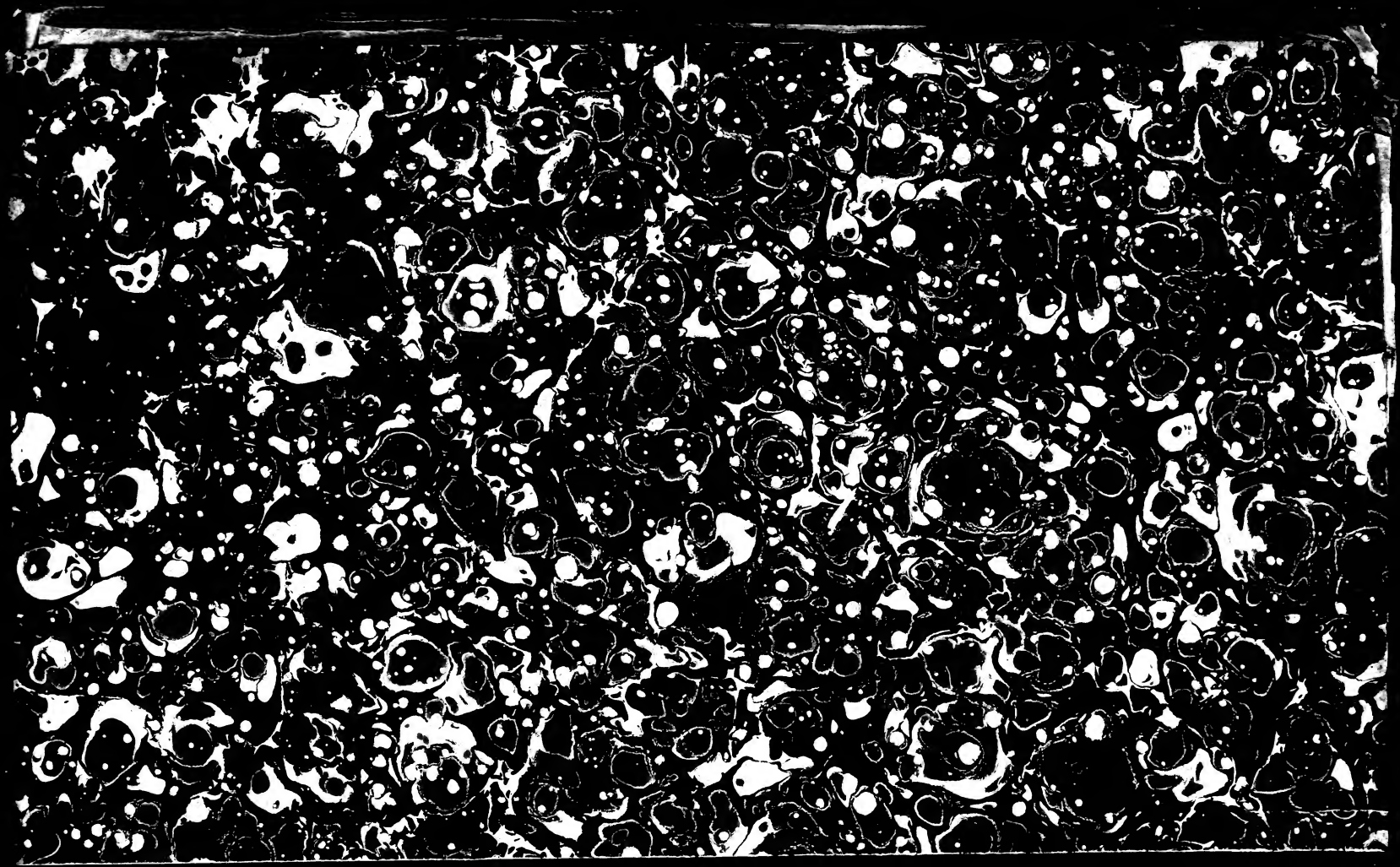

THE

MOST EXCELLENT AND DELIGHTFUL

HISTORY

OF

FORTUNATUS.

Great Fortunatus, had a purſe in SPAIN,
When it was empty, ſoon it fill'd again,
This was a bounty from a Lady fair;
And lucky he, to get it to his ſhare,
Next FORTUNATUS got a Wiſhing-Hat,
Which brought him ſoon to what he would beat;
And with theſe two, without great toil or ſtrife,
He long enjoy'd, a pleaſant happy life.

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THE HISTORY OF FORTUNATUS.

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CHAP. I.

The Birth *of* FORTUNATUS.

IN the famous Isle of *Cyprus*, there is a stately City, called *Famgosta*, where once lived a wealthy noble Citizen named *Theodorus*, who was left by his Relations with great riches. He being left young by his Parents, he addicted himself to all manner of Pleasures and Pastimes, often frequented Princes Courts, where he soon wasted great part of his wealth in riotous living, to the great grief of his Friends and Relations, who thinking to make him

leave these courses, determined to marry him to a noble rich Citizen's daughter, named *Gratiana*, and by the consent of both parties he was married to her; and in a sumptuous manner was the wedding kept, with great feasting. *Theodorus*, taking his Spouse home, lived with her virtuously for a time, to the great content of both their Relations.

In a year after their Marriage, *Gratiana* was brought to bed of a Son, who was christened *Fortunatus*. *Theodorus*, in a little time after, began to follow his former bad courses, insomuch, that he sold and mortgaged most part of his land, till he had at last wasted all his estate, so that he fell into extreme poverty, that they were not able to keep any Servants; *Gratiana* being forced to dress her own Meat, and wash the Cloaths herself. *Theodorus* and his Wife, sitting at a poor dinner, and the Father beholding his Son, could hardly refrain from weeping; when his Son perceived, (being now eighteen years of age) and greatly experienced in hawking and hunting, playing on the Lute, these being his chief pleasures, he spoke to his Father, and said, *dear Father, what is't that gives you such grief and uneasiness? For I observed, when you beheld me, you appear'd sad and disconsolate*

conſolate : Pray have I in any reſpect offended you ? His Father anſwered, *dear Son, thou art not the cauſe of my grief, but myſelf is the cauſe of the pinching poverty I am brought to.* When I call to mind the great wealth and honour that I lately enjoyed, and when I conſider how unable I am to ſuccour thee my only child, this it is that vexes me day and night, and thoſe families that I ſpent my goods on, now ſlight me and refrain my company. *To this Fortunatus anſwer'd, do not take ſuch immoderate care for me, I am young and ſtrong, I will travel into far countries, and ſeek my fortune, I hope in God I ſhall be preferred ; I have not been ſo indifferently brought up, but I can ſhift for myſelf.*

Upon this, *Fortunatus* went from his Father's houſe, with a hawk in his hand, travelling towards the Sea-ſide, pondering with himſelf, that being abſent from his Father's ſight, he might not be grieved thereby, and as he walked by the Sea-ſide he eſpied a *Venetian* Galley, wherein was an Earl of *Flanders*, who had loſt two of his Men ; wiſhing within himſelf that he could be entertain'd in this Earl's Service, that he might be rid of his Country *Cyprus* : With that he ſtept forth and making a low obedience to the earth, he ſaid, *I underſtand moſt noble Lord, you have loſt two of*

your Men, therefore I desire if you please, to be entertained in your Service. I like thee well, answer'd the Earl, what wages shall I give thee? Said he, I desire no wages, but to be rewarded according to my deserts. These words pleased the Earl, so that they soon agreed and set sail to Venice.

CHAP. II

Fortunatus sailed away with the Earl, without the knowledge of his Father or Mother.

THE Earl was now returned home, and was joyfully received by his Subjects, for he was very affable, just and virtuous, and the other of his neighbours welcomed him home. Presently after his return he married the Duke of *Cleve's* daughter who was a fair and beautiful lady. *Fortunatus* having bought for the Wedding at *Venice* several costly Jewels, Garments of Velvet, Silk, and cloth of Gold. To the wedding resorted many of great estates, with many valient Knights and Gentlemen, mounted on stately Horses, to Tilt and Tournament before the noble Ladies there present.

And

And as there were no ſmall number of proper and comely Gentlemen to attend at the Wedding, yet there was none ſo commemded for their behaviour as was *Fortunatus*. After the Nobles had finiſhed their Triumphs, and martial Games, the Duke of *Cleves*, and the Bride and the Bridegroom agreed to let their Servants try their manhood at ſeveral paſtime for two rich jewels, eſteemed at one hundred Crowns, and he that obtained the Prize ſhould have them. which made all the Servants glad, every one ſtriving to do his beſt, ſo that the Duke of *Burgundy's* Servants won one, and *Fortunatus* the other, which greatly diſpleaſed the other Servants; upon this they deſired the Duke's Servant to challenge *Fortunatus* to fight him before all the Ladies, who ſhould have them both, which challenge was ſoon accepted of by *Fortunatus*: and coming to the Tilt-yard, they encountered each other briſkly, till at laſt *Fortunatus* hoiſted the Duke's Servant off his Horſe, at his full ſpear's length, whereupon he won the Victory and obtained the Jewels, which increaſed the envy of the other Servants, but rejoiced the Earl.

Among the Earl's Servants there was a crafty old Fellow, who conſulted with the reſt of the Servants, and agreed with them for

for ten Crowns, that he would ſoon make depart of his own accord, and leave his Lord, which they paid him down, to accompliſh which, he ſoon inſinuated himſelf into *Fortunatus*'s company, pretending him great friendſhip, treating him highly at ſeveral great feaſts, of Women and Wine: alſo much praiſing his Riches and Nobility of Birth, and valiant Courage, and always paying the ſhot for him, 'till at laſt he began to inſinuate he would reveal a great ſecret to him: That his Lord having conceived a great jealouſy of his Chamberlains (of whom *Fortunatus* was one) he had a deſign ſecretly to have them gelt; which when *Fortunatus* heard he was much amazed, and therefore deſired this old Fellow *Robert* to tell him how he might convey himſelf away with ſpeed out of the City undiſcovered: *Robert* was glad to hear of this, and anſwered, *You know, that the Gates of the City are ſhut, and there is no going out until Morning.* Then ſaid *Fortunatus* I *had rather wander as a Vagabond, than be ſo ſerved.* Then ſaid, *Robert I am ſorry that I told you of theſe things, ſince I ſhall now loſe your Company.* *However he deſired Robert* by all means to conceal his departure, and then, he being in much trouble of mind, at break of day he departed, taking

his

his Journey on Horſeback, with hounds following him, little miſtruſting *Robert*'s Treachery; when *Fortunatus* had rode ten miles he bought him another, and ſent home the Earl's Horſe with the Hounds. that he ſhould have no occaſion to purſue him. But when the Earl underſtood that *Fortunatus* was departed without his leave, and not knowing the cauſe of his being offended; he thereupon demanded of his ſervants whither they knew the occaſion why *Fortunatus* had withdrawn himſelf, ſo ſuddenly, they pleaded Ignorance; then he went to the Ladies and Gentlemen, and enquired of them, but they ſaid they knew not: Then ſaid the Earl, thro' the cauſe of his departure is concealed from me, yet I know he is not fled without ſome reaſon, for which I ſhall ſharply be revenged on them who were the cauſe of it.

When *Robert* underſtood that his Lord was this grieved for his departure, he was in fear leaſt he ſhould be diſcovered by ſome of the other Servants.

Now we ſhall leave the Earl of Flanders who little knew how *Robert* had deceived *Fortunatus*.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The Travels Fortunatus had after he left his Master.

FORTUNATUS having sent home his Master's Horse, he travell'd with all speed to Calais, where he took Shipping thinking himself haraly safe when in the midst of the Sea, till at last he arrived in England & coming to London, (a great and populous City, he at last met with some Cyprus Merchants, his own Countrymen, who extravagantly spent their money in gaming and wenching, so that in half a year's time they had consumed all their money: Fortunatus having the least, his spring was the sooneſt dry; therefore, being now Moneyless, he went to some of his Landladies, with whom he had spent his Money, to borrow three Crowns saying, he would go into Flanders and would get four-hundred crowns that was there in his Uncle's Hands; but he was slighted, and none would they lend him: He desired one of his Misses to trust him a quart of Wine, but she deny'd him, and ordered her servant to fetch him a pint of small Beer, to make the Ass drink before he went. Fortunatus

tunatus conveyed himself out of England, crois'd the Seas, and arrived in Pickardy in France. In travelling, he passed thro' a Wood where he spent the whole day, and being benighted he saw an old house, where he hoped to find some relief, but there was no creature in it. He spent the next day in travelling from one Wood to another, almost starved with hunger, he set himself down by a Fountain; the night being still he heard a great noise in the wood, as the grunting of Bears, which made him convey himself away, and get up a tree near the Fountain; the wild Beasts having drank, one of them finding Fortunatus, climbed up the tree after him, on which he drew his Sword, and wounded the Bear so that he fell from the tree; the rest of the beasts being gone, he came down from the tree, and thrust his sword through him, and then laying his mouth to the wound, suck'd out his Blood, and a little refreshed himself therewith, and then he laid him down and slept by the beast until Morning.

CHAP. IV.

The Lady Fortune, gave Fortunatus a Purse that never wanted Money.

BUT as soon as he awoke, he saw standing before him, a fair and beautiful Lady

Lady muffled over her eyes, and to her he ſaid, I beſeech thee ſweet Virgin, for the love of God to aſſiſt me, than I may come out of this wood, for theſe three days have I travell'd without meat. Then ſhe demanded of him, what countryman he was, he anſwered, I am of the Iſle of Cyprus, and poverty hath conſtrained me to wander to ſeek my Fortune.

She ſaid, *fear not*, Fortunatus, *I am the Goddeſs* Fortune, *and by the influence of the Heavens and Stars, have command over ſix Powers, which I beſtow on thee, one or more according to divine Permiſſion; they are Wiſdom, Riches, Strength, Health, Beauty, and long life: Chuſe one of theſe ſix quickly.*

Fortunatus made no long Stay, but ſaid, Then I deſire Riches; ſuch plenty that I may never want as long as I live. With that ſhe gave him a Purſe, and ſaid, receive this Fame of me, and in what Country thou art as often as thou ſhall put thy Hand therein, thou ſhall draw out ten Pieces of Gold of the ſame Nation's Coin, and this Purſe ſhall retain its Virtue as long as thou liveſt, and thy own Children, or any other during their Life; therefore eſteem it accordingly, and take ſpecial care thereof.

Fortunatus returned her many Thanks for her kindneſs to him, but ſhe ſaid, return thanks

thanks to the Giver of all good Gifts, and of thy riches bestow it on the Poor and Needy; then said he, this I will very willingly perform to the utmost of my Power. Then she bid him follow her, and she conveyed him out of the Wood, where he espied an Inn where Men usually refresh themselves, then she vanished out of his sight. But before he entered the Inn he tried the purse and drew forth ten crowns, whereof he was very glad and joyfully entered the Inn, and calling for provision, said, he would content them for it, for he was extremely hungry; on which his Host soon furnish'd his table. Now, when he had sufficiently appeased his hunger and thirst, and rested himself some days, he discharged his Host to his full contentment and so departed.

CHAP. V.

Fortunatus, having bought several fine Horses, which an Earl had prized before, was taken Prisoner, and strictly examined concerning his Purse.

TWO miles from this Wood, was a little Town and a castle, where lived an Earl that owned the Wood, where Fortunatus took up his Lodging in the best Inn,

and

aſked his Hoſt if he could help him to ſome good Horſes? his Hoſt told him, that there was a Merchant had ſeveral ſtately Horſes, of which the Earl had choſen three and offered 300 crowns for them, but it was refuſed. Fortunatus went into his chamber and took out of his purſe 600 crowns, and bid his Hoſt ſend for the Merchant to bring his horſes to him. The Hoſt ſuppoſing he had been in jeſt, ſeeing him ſo meanly apparelled; but at length he brought him to the Merchant, and liking his horſes, he he bought two of thoſe the Earl had cheapened, and gave 300 crowns for them. He bought ſaddles and other furniture for them, and deſired his Hoſt to get him two ſervants The Earl hearing, that Fortunatus had bought the horſes out of his hand, was very angry, and ſent for the Inn-keeper to know who it was that had bought the horſes. The Earl being informed he was a ſtranger and no Gentleman commanded his men to lay hold of him, ſaying that he had commtted ſome robbery, or murder'd a man, on which (tho they had but bare ſuppoſition to ſupport their opinion) they caſt him into priſon. Immediately after the Earl ſent for Fortunatus and examined him what he was; he anſwered, that he was born in Cyprus, that he was the ſon of a poor Gentle

tleman. The Earl ask'd him how he had so much money? he told him he came by it honestly. The Earl told him if he would not tell him he would put him to the rack. Fortunatus proposed rather to die than reveal the virtue of his purse. Upon this he was put upon the rack, then it being again demanded how he came by so many fair crowns, he said, after that I had wandered 3 days in yonder wood, I found a purse with 600 crowns in it. Then said the Earl, thou Vagabond the money is mine, and thy body and goods are forfeited. *Gracious Lord, answer'd he, I wist not that it was in your Jurisdictions then said the Earl, this shall not excuse thee, for this day I will take of thee thy thy Goods, and To-morrow thy life. Then did Fortunatus complain to himself that he had not made choice of wisdom before riches. Then did Fortunatus humbly beg his life of the Earl, and being willing to lose all his goods the Earl bemoved to save his life at the entreaty of some of his men delivered to him his purse, with the crowns in it, and charged him never more to come into his jurisdiction. Fortunatus rejoiced that he had so well escaped, and was not bereft of his precious purse.*

After this he travell'd towards his own country of Cyprus, having bought several horses and rich apparel, and several servants

to

to attend him, he arrived at Famogosta, where it was told him that his father and mother was dead; he then soon purchased his father's house and pull'd it down, and so built a stately palace, and after the best method he had seen in travels. He also built a sumptuous church, and 12 houses for 12 priests to say divine service in. He caused 3 stately tombs to be made, one for his father, another for his mother, when he caused their bones to be taken up and placed therein; the other he reserved for himself and his heirs. After this he proposed to take him a wife.

CHAP. VI.

Fortunatus *married the Lord* Nemain's *youngest Daughter.*

NOT far from Famogosta, lived a Lord who had three daughters, that were great beauties, one of whom the King of Cyprus intended to bestow on Fortunatus and having caused them to be richly attired he gave him leave to take his choice. So when Fortunatus had asked each of them a question he made choice of the youngest, to the great grief of the other two sisters. The Countess and Earl liked well the match only they objected against him, that he

he had no land, which when Fortunatus underſtood and that the Earl of Ligre had a conſiderable eſtate that is a caſtle and ſeveral lordſhips to diſpoſe of, being much indebted, he bought this of the Earl for 10000 ducketts, and paid down the money, ſo he jointered it on Caſſandra, who was to be his wife. Fortunatus alſo preſented the Counteſs her mother with ſeveral rich jewels of great value and alſo her ſiſters to their great content.

Then did the King profer to keep the wedding of Fortunatus and Caſſandra his Bride at his Court, but he deſired to keep it at at his own palace, humbly beſeeching the King and Queen to honour him with their preſence at his wedding; the King and Queen gave their conſent to come with his Father-in-law, and his ſpouſe, and bring all his relations, Fortunatus was glad, and returned the King thanks. After four days came about, the King and nobles, and all his attendants honour'd Fortunatus with their company at his new palace, where entertained with pleaſant muſic, and many delightful ſhews in a ſplendid and triumphant manner, and his palace was adorned with coſtly furniture, very glorious to behold. Thus continued they all the day feaſting, banqueting and dancing, after a

moſt

ſumptuous manner till night, when Fortunatus and his bride were brought to their chamber. This great feaſting and banqueting continued 40 days. Then the King returned to his court infinitely well ſatisfied with his entertainment. After this he made another grand feaſt for all the Citizens, with their Wives and Children.

CHAP. VII.

Fortunatus had two ſons by Caſſandra his Wife,

NOW Fortunatus and Caſſandra lived in a joyful and happy ſtate, found no lack of any thing but children, for he knew that the virtues of his purſe would fail after his death, if he had no heir of his body. He prayed daily to God to make them fruitful, inſomuch that the Lord heard their prayers and ſent them a ſon, which they chriſtened Ampedo; ſhortly after ſhe conceiv'd again and brought forth another ſon whom they named Andolicia; then was Fortunatus very joyful that he had now 2 ſons, whom he cauſed to be carefully brought up in all accompliſhments fit for Gentlemen of quality, Fortunatus having lived 12 years with his Wife Caſſandra, he deſigned again to travel, which his Wife much oppoſed deſiring by all the love he bore

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bore to her and her two ſons, not to leave them; that he being fully reſolved to travel appeaſed her, by promiſing that he would not ſtay long from her, and then would abide with her during life. Then ſhe ſaid to him, pray haſten your return, and I will pray for your ſafety day and night. Soon after he took his leave of his wife and children, and deſiring God to bleſs them, he departed in a ſhip of his own and ſailed to Alexandria, where he had brought ſuch great gifts to the Sultan, that gained him much favour, and received his letter for his ſafe travelling through all his dominions where he trafficked, and bought many rich goods and Jewels.

CHAP. VII.

Fortunatus gave rich presents to the Sultan, and how he got his Wishing-Hat.

FOrtunatus was sumptuously treated by the Sultan, and after supper, he determined on leave to bestow his gifts to the Sultan's servants, which was granted; then opened he his purse under the table, and gave rich presents to all of them according to their degrees, insomuch that the Sultan marvelled greatly, and being highly pleased, hd told him, that for his kindness he would shewhim such varieties as he never saw the like before; then he brought him under a tower made of strong marble stone in the first room, were several rich vessels and jewels, with great heaps of silver coined: in the second room he shewed several chests of gold coined, wirh a Wardrobe full of rich garments, and golden candlesticks set with carbuncles. Fortunatus admired and prized these riches greatly; the Sultan said, I have one jewel more that I esteem above these. So he brought him into his chamber, and shew'd him a small hat, saying I prize this hat above all the jewels I possess, for such as that is not to be had. Fortunatus said, I would gladly know the virtue of it; *then answer'd the Sultan, it hath this vir-*

tue

tue that he who hath it on his head where he wiſhes to be is conveyed thither: So hat I take more pleaſure than with all my jewels. Then thought Fortunatus *how well will it agree with my purſe, and ſaid to the King ſince this hat hath ſuch virtue, ſure it muſt be very heavy on his head that weareth it. Then ſaid the Sultan, it is no heavier than another hat; whereupon he gave it into his hands, and bid him put it on his head, aſking him, if it felt otherwiſe, Then ſaid* Fortunatus, *I did not think it had been ſo light, or did I ſuppoſe you would have put it on my head. On which he ſuddenly wiſhed himſelf into his own Ship, which was then under ſail, to return into his own country; the Sultan looking out of the window, and ſeeing the ſhip under ſail, was extremely angry, and commanded his men to fetch him back, threatening him if he could take him to put him to death, but all in vain,* Fortunatus *was too expeditious for them, and arrived ſafe in his own country, with his ſhip laden with rich goods, where he was joyfully received by his wife and ſons, and the citizens of* Famogoſta. Fortunatus having travelled over moſt part of the World, and wanting nothing of worldly riches, that his heart could wiſh, he began to conſider the advancement and happineſs of his children, he maintained a princely court, provided maſters and learned

ned men to inſtruct his children in all manner of learning and feats of chivalry, vvhereof the youngeſt vvas moſt inclined to behave manfully, vvhich cauſed Fortunatus ſtovv many jewels for his performances at Famagoſta, vvhere he generally obtained the victory; Fortunatus rejoiced, paſſing his days in great pleaſure and paſtime, vvith the Hat Purſe, and Havvking vvith his ſon Andolicia, and his vvife Caſſandra was ſummoned avvay by a grievous ſickneſs to her grave, vvhich ſo invvardly grieved Fortunatus, that he languiſhed vvith a dea'ly conſumption, vvhich put him ſoon in mind to prepa.e for his death.

CHAP IX.

Fortunatus *upon his death-bed to left his ſons the extraordinary virtues of his purſe and hat.*

FOrtunatus, perceiving death approaching him, thought it was a proper time for him to ſettle his Worldly affairs and reveal to his two beloved Sons, the great uſe and vertues of his favourite Purſe and Hat: Theſe he knew from experience would make them happy, vvould they but make a right and proper uſe of them, ſo that he did not delay a moment to ſend for them, ſaying to them, *My dear Children, Impedo*

and

and Andolia, God hath taken away your dear mother, that ſo carefully hath brought you up, and I alſo perceive death near at hand therefore I will ſhew you how you may continue in honour and wealth as I have done to my dying day. But, that you may enjoy theſe great benefits with ſatisfaction and comfort, be careful to obſerve and put in practice, the laſt exhortations of your dying and ever loving father: Firſt then, *above all things keep God's holy will and commandments; be kind and loving to each other, and as the purſe will furniſh you both with great abundance; let the poor and needy partake of your riches; let the hungry be fed by you, and let the naked be cloathed; then will the all-powerfull fill you with bleſſings, and crown your days with pleaſure and honour.*

Then, he declared to them the virtue of his purſe, and how it would continue no longer than their lives; add he alſo told them the virtue of his Wiſhing Hat. He commanded them not to part theſe Jewels, but to keep them in common, and that they ſhould not make any perſon privy to the virtue of the purſe, if thou we are ever ſo beloved of them. I have, ſaid he, *concealed the virtue of it theſe forty years, and never revealed it to any perſon but to you.* When he had thus ſaid, and given him his bleſſing and ſome wholeſome inſtructions,

he ceased speaking, and he gave up the ghost. His sons buried him honourably in the Church that he built, in a large and stately tomb. and erected a magnificent Monument to the Memory of Fortunatus, who had so deservedly rendered himself the Darling and Beloved of Mankind.

FINIS.